

Translated from Spanish

PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

2 September 1962

No. 386

Sir,

On the instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, I have the honour to give below a verbatim copy of our Prime Minister's statement in reply to an accusation by the Government of the United States of America:

"The United States Government issued yesterday afternoon the following statement:

"Two small naval vessels, believed to be Cuban, fired upon an unarmed U.S. Navy aircraft at 2 p.m. Cuban time on Aug. 30, 1962. The attack occurred approximately 15 miles north of Cuba in and over international waters while the aircraft was on a routine training mission.

"Its crew of three were U.S. Naval reserves on temporary active duty.

"In any such incident in the future where United States aircraft or naval vessels are fired upon in or over international waters while in peaceful performance of their duties the United States armed forces will employ all means necessary for their own protection and will assure their free use of such waters.

"The authorities in Cuba are being informed through appropriate channels."

"We categorically affirm that this report by the United States Government is totally untrue. The incident in question is pure fabrication - a method in which Yankee policy is very experienced.

U Thant
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

"It is not surprising, following the infamous and criminal attack on Havana by armed vessels which came from Florida and afterwards took refuge there, that the Washington Government should now resort to such cynical and unscrupulous tactics.

"No Cuban aircraft or vessel has committed any act of hostility whatsoever, in any form, against United States aircraft, vessels, installations, waters or territory.

"United States military vessels and aircraft, however, have on hundreds of occasions violated our air space and our territorial waters and have harassed our vessels by making near passes at them.

"United States positions in the Guantánamo Naval Base - a territory usurped from the Cuban nation - fire almost daily onto our soil. That is not to mention the innumerable times that aircraft from the United States have burnt our sugar-cane fields or dropped arms and explosives on our national territory, while pirate vessels have come from that country to attack shipping, industrial installations and urban areas, both before and since the criminal invasion of Playa Girón; all of which acts were acknowledged and confessed by the Yankee President, Pentagon, CIA and State Department.

"In no case has Cuba answered provocation with provocation. Our rights have been violated hundreds of times and always, without exception, our reply has been a public protest and a denunciation before international bodies and world opinion.

"We have complained that the United States is preparing aggression against our homeland. The cynical, unscrupulous and shameful fabrication of this incident in which Cuban vessels are said to have fired upon a Yankee aircraft in international waters, together with the war-mongering campaign and anti-Cuban hysteria of recent days, confirm the correctness of the warning Cuba has given the world concerning the dangers to our

country and to world peace inherent in the hazardous and belligerent policy of the United States Government.

"The United States Government immediately follows up its lie with a threat that, in any such incident in the future, its armed forces will take action.

"Real incidents provoked by Cuba never occur; but incidents which are invented, which are truculently and criminally fabricated for the purpose of aggression against our country - these may indeed occur.

"The United States Government has no scruples.

"But I do not think that Cuba will be intimidated by its brutal threats. If United States armed forces attack Cuba, they must come prepared to perish in the fight.

"'HOMELAND OR DEATH.' WE SHALL CONQUER.

"(Signed) Commandant Fidel Castro
Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government"

I request that this letter be circulated to all Member States.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Gilberto Mediavilla de la Peña
Secretary in charge of the Permanent Mission
of Cuba to the United Nations
